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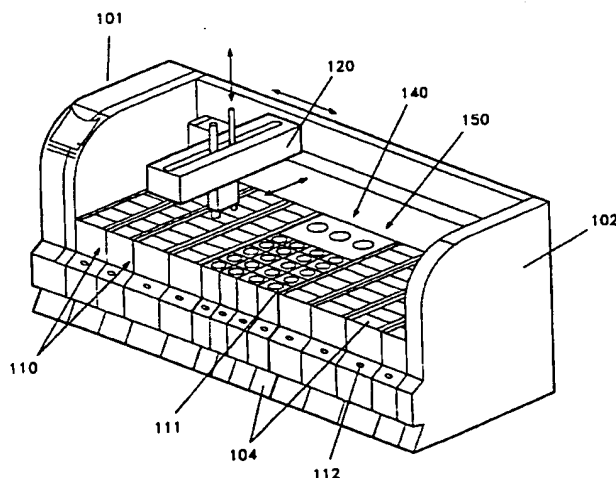
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: INFORMATION NOTIFICATION SAMPLE PROCESSING SYSTEM AND METHODS OF BIOLOGICAL SLIDE PROCESSING



(57) Abstract: A sample processing system (101) that may be automated and methods are disclosed where sample(s) (198) are arranged on a carrier element (197) and a process operation control system (171) automatically processes the sample(s) perhaps robotically with an operationally-influential exteriorly-consequential information monitor (402) or a data capture element (414). Significant process details as well as operationally-influential exteriorly-consequential information may be monitored and an automatic notice element (404) may cause notification of a person at some display (415) that may be remote. Various people may be notified, such as an administrator, a supplier, or a manufacturer of an opportunity for some action such as reagent reordering or the like. A simulated motion display may be included to "watch" simulated operation in real time or long after completion of the actual processing.

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

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US CL : 702/22

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : Please See Continuation Sheet

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

Please See Continuation Sheet

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 4, 018,565 A (Fletcher, III et al) 19 April 1977 (19.04.1977), Abstract.	26, 40, 41, 68, 82, 83
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Y	US 4,539,632 A (Hansen et al) 3 September 1985 (03.09.1985), Abstract; column 1, line 59 - column 2, line 28.	29, 32, 71, 74
Y	US 4,886,590 A (Tittle) 12 December 1989 (12.12.1989), column 2, lines 16-38.	15, 33-36, 39, 57, 75-78, 80
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Y	US 5,104,527 A (Clinkenbeard) 14 April 1992 (14.04.1992), column 3, lines 26-64.	91-93, 96-98, 128-130, 133-135



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



See patent family annex.

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C. (Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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X — Y	US 5,289,385 A (Grandone) 22 February 1994 (22.02.1994), column 5, line 66 - column 6, line 36; column 7, lines 36-45; column 10, line 18 - column 11, line 10.	1, 43, 85, 92, 96, 97, 122, 129, 133, 134 2-23, 26-42, 44-65, 68-84, 86-91, 93-95, 98-106, 110-116, 120, 121, 123-128, 130-132, 135-143, 147-153, 157, 158
Y	US 5,316,726 A (Bahson et al) 31 May 1994 (31.05.1994), column 2, lines 43-56; column 3, lines 3-6; column 5, lines 9-31; column 6, lines 3-20.	3, 45, 87, 112, 114, 124, 149, 151
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Y	US 5,366,896 A (Margrey et al) 22 November 1994 (22.11.1994), Abstract.	5, 47, 89, 111, 113, 126, 148, 150
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Y	US 5,958,341 A (Chu) 28 September 1999 (28.09.1999), column 4, lines 33-50.	2, 3, 44, 45, 86, 87, 123, 124
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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Continuation of B. FIELDS SEARCHED Item 1:

702/19, 21-32, 81-84, 176-178, 182, 184, 185, 187, 188; 700/266, 267; 436/46, 49, 50; 422/63, 67; 340/3.1, 3.3, 3.31, 3.32, 3.9

Continuation of B. FIELDS SEARCHED Item 3:

USPAT, US-PGPUB, JPO, DERWENT, EPO, IBM_TDB

search terms:automatic automated sample process processing preparation, titration, staining, deparaffinization, target retrieval, reagent application, robot, robotic, monitor, alert, notify, alarm, supplier, expiration, historical usage, total reagent, predictive usage, efficacy, segmented computer file, read only file, integral change, common format, proprietary format, software selection, playback